

# Flower Children

The Little Cousins of the Field and  
Garden



ELIZABETH GORDON















# **Flower Children**

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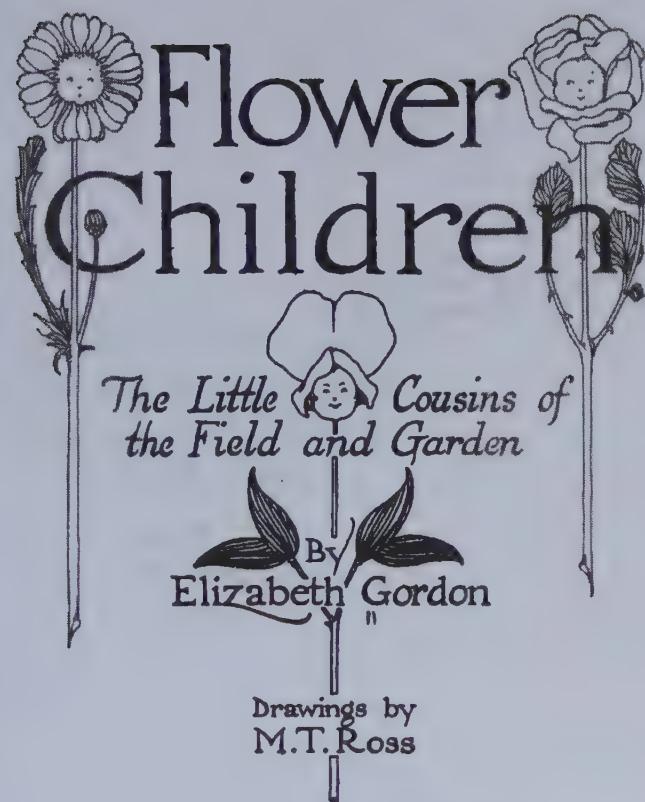




# *Flower Children*

*The Little Cousins of  
the Field and Garden*





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*Forty-fourth Edition*

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To every Child-Flower that Blooms  
Within the Glorious Garden  
That we Call Home  
This Little Book  
is  
Lovingly Dedicated.



## FOREWORD

*A flower, a child, and a mother's heart—  
These three are never so far apart.  
A child, a flower, and a mother's love—  
This world's best gifts from the world above.*

**A**LL children are flowers in the garden of God's love. A flower is the mystical counterpart of a child. To the understanding heart a child is a flower and a flower is a child. God made flowers on the day that He made the world beautiful. Then He gave the world children to play amid the flowers. God has implanted in the breasts of children a natural love for flowers—and no one who keeps that love in his heart has entirely forsaken the land of childhood.

In preparing this book the author and the artist have attempted to show

the kinship of children and flowers, and it is their hope that the little ones into whose hands this volume comes will find herein the proof that their knowledge of what flowers really are is true and that their love for the friendly blossoms is returned many-fold.

To you, then, little child-flowers, this book is lovingly offered as an expression of thankfulness to children for the joy and sweetness with which they have filled my life.

— ELIZABETH GORDON

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**S**AID CROCUS: "My! this wind is cold!  
Most wish I had not been so bold;  
Here the fields are still all brown;  
Glad I wore my eider-down."

## FLOWER CHILDREN



TRAILING ARBUTUS, you know,  
Loves to grow beneath the snow:  
Other folks would find it chilly,  
She says that 's absurdly silly.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



EAGER little Daffodil  
Came too soon and got a chill;  
Jack Frost pinched her ear and said,  
“Silly child, go back to bed.”

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**H**YACINTH, the pretty thing,  
Comes to us in early spring;  
Says she always loves to hear  
Easter bells a-ringing clear.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



LADY TULIP, stately dame,  
From across the ocean came;  
Liked this country very much,  
Although she only spoke in Dutch.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY said  
She guessed she was a sleepy-head;  
But she got up and dressed for town  
In her new green tailored gown.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



Pussy willow said, "Meow!  
Wish some one would tell me how  
Other kittens get around  
And roll and frolic on the ground."

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**P**RIMROSE is the dearest thing—  
She loves to play out doors in spring;  
But if a little child is ill,  
She 's happy on the window sill.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**G**RANDFATHER Dandelion had such pretty hair,  
Along came a gust of wind and left his head quite bare;  
Young Dandelion generously-offered him some gold,  
To buy a cap to keep his dear old head from being cold.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



WIND-FLOWER on an April day,  
Came along and said she 'd stay;  
Wore her furs snug as you please,  
Said she liked the nice, cool breeze.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



A NEMONES and Bluets grew,  
All the woodland pathway through;  
Came along one day together,  
Did n't mind the April weather.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



LILAC wears a purple plume,  
Scented with a sweet perfume;  
Very high-born lady she,  
Quite proud of her family tree.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



TRILLIUM said "Why, deary me,  
I 'm just as freckled as can be,"  
Her cousin Tiger-Lily said,  
"Well, look at me, I 'm almost red."

## FLOWER CHILDREN



PANSIES like the shaded places;  
With their little friendly faces,  
Always seem to smile and say:  
"How are all the folks to-day?"

## FLOWER CHILDREN



JOHNNIE-JUMP-UP made a bet,  
That he could pass for Violet.  
What spoiled the little rascal's game?  
The scent he used was not the same.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



LADY'S-SLIPPER in the wood,  
Said she really wished she could  
Have a pretty dress and go  
With sister to the flower show.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**M**ODEST little Violet  
Was her loving Mother's pet;  
Did n't care to go and play,  
Rather stay at home all day.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**C**OWSLIP dearly loves to romp  
Around the bottom of the swamp;  
She comes along in early spring,  
Before the grass, or anything.

# FLOWER CHILDREN

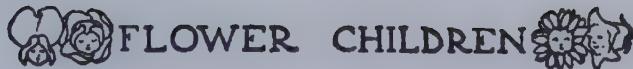


**F**RAGRANT little Mignonette,  
In a shower got quite wet;  
Laughed and said she did n't care--  
It looked like jewels in her hair.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**A** PPLE BLOSSOM is a fairy,  
Swinging in a tree so airy;  
By and by the little sprite  
Sprinkles the ground with pink and white.

The title "FLOWER CHILDREN" is centered at the top of the page. It is framed by two stylized flower heads: a rose on the left and a sunflower on the right. The word "FLOWER" is positioned above "CHILDREN".

## FLOWER CHILDREN



LITTLE golden-hearted Daisy  
Told the sun that she felt lazy;  
Said the earth was quite too wet,  
She thought she would n't open yet.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



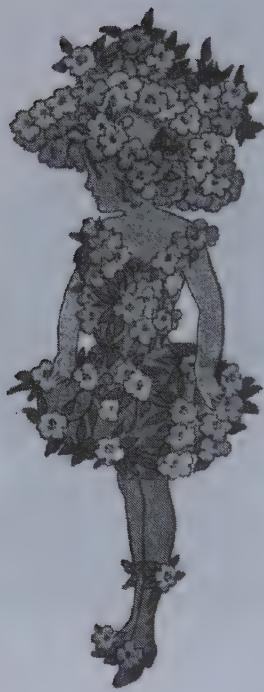
L AUGHING, lucky Four-Leaved Clover  
Is a most atrocious rover;  
Does n't stay long in one place,  
Goes and never leaves a trace.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**T**HIRSTY little Buttercup  
Caught the dew and drank it up,  
Said cool water was so good,  
She did n't seem to care for food.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



SWEET little maid Forget-Me-Not,  
She 's such a darling little tot;  
A blue-eyed child with modest ways,  
She 's never spoiled a bit by praise.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



COMMON little Garden Pink,  
Went away to school — just think!  
When she came home for vacation,  
Made them call her Rose Carnation.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**B**OUNCING BETTY stood all day  
In the hedge row by the way;  
By-and-by she crept outside,  
And got so scared she nearly cried.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



MORNING-GLORY thought she 'd look  
Through the window at the cook;  
Did n't know 't was impolite  
To give a body such a fright.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



HONEYSUCKLE, pretty vine,  
Loved about the porch to twine.  
Thought 't was just too sweet for words  
To visit with the humming-birds.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



WILD ROSE runs round everywhere,  
Likes to breathe the nice fresh air;  
Even her high-bred connection  
Cannot match her pink complexion.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**C**OLOMBINE 's a happy sprite,  
Dances with fairies every night;  
She feeds them honey when they go,  
That 's why the fairies love her so.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



CUNNING LITTLE Blue-eyed Grass,  
Smiles up at you as you pass;  
Looks as if a bit of sky,  
Had fallen down from 'way up high.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



NASTURTIUM grew so big and tall,  
He climbed up on the garden wall;  
His little sister could n't go —  
Dear child, she never seemed to grow.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



PANSY SAID she wished she knew  
What made Lark-spur look so blue;  
Larkspur smiled and said 't was only  
'Cause she felt a little lonely.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



O H, HAVE you seen sweet Briar-Rose?  
She wears the very dearest clothes,  
A hat the sweetest ever seen,  
And dainty frock all shades of green.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**B**LUEBELL softly, gently sways  
Through the long hot summer days;  
Lives where nothing else can grow,—  
That 's why we all love her so.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**G**ERANIUM wears a scarlet gown,  
With trimmings shading into brown,  
Her cousin is a dainty sprite,  
She dresses modestly in white.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



SWEET ALYSSUM plays around  
On any little piece of ground;  
Takes up hardly any room,  
And sheds a very sweet perfume.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



SIMPLE LOOKING Blue-eyed Flax  
Helped the farmer pay his tax;  
Was busy all the season through;  
Said it was n't hard to do.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**B**LEEDING-HEART, against the wall,  
Told her woes to one and all.  
Live-Forever said, "Forget it;  
Life treats you the way you let it."

## FLOWER CHILDREN



SWEET PEA said she thought they might  
Give her a dress that was n't white;  
So Mother Nature chose for her  
All the colors that there were.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**S**NAP-DRAGON is so very bold,  
He plays his tricks on young and old;  
Hides behind the old stone wall,  
And shoots his pop-gun at us all.



FLOWER CHILDREN



RAGGED ROBIN on a lark  
Stole inside of Central Park;  
There they treated her so well,  
She soon looked like a city Belle.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



YARROW PINK and Yarrow White,  
Stole in on the lawn one night;  
Gardener said they had no sense,  
But they did n't take offense.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



IRIS in a country garden,  
Politely said, "I beg your pardon,  
But I'm from sunny France you see,  
And my real name is Fleur-de-Lis."

# FLOWER CHILDREN



PEONY 'S a charming lady,  
She does n't like a spot too shady;  
Likes to live out in the light,  
Dressed in red or pink or white.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**O**NCE THEY LOST sweet Babe Verbena,  
Mother said, "Oh, have you seen her?"  
But pretty soon the dear was found  
Creeping on the nice soft ground.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



DAINTY LITTLE Maidenhair  
Lost her way and did n't care;  
Played all day, the naughty child,  
With common ferns, who run quite wild.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



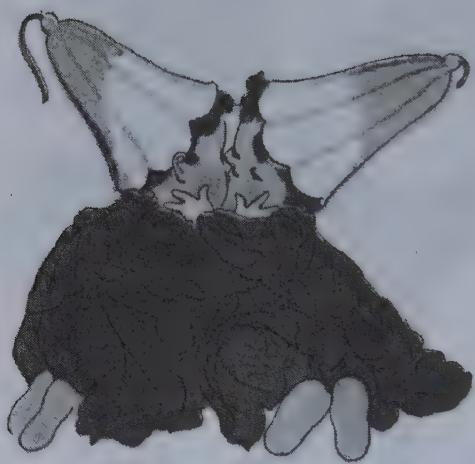
YOUNG Sweet William, sad to tell,  
Rang the Canterbury's Bell,  
"Just for that," his father said,  
"William, come out in the shed!"

# FLOWER CHILDREN



NAUGHTY little Four-O'Clock  
Gave her mother quite a shock;  
Stayed awake till nearly six,  
Oh, she's always up to tricks.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



IF YOU'RE very, *very* good  
When you're walking in the wood,  
Twin-Flower babies you may see.  
Sheltered by some old pine tree.



## FLOWER CHILDREN



ALL THE SUMMER, Milkweed played,  
Like a dear, good little maid;  
But on a bright October day,  
She found some wings and flew away.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



CANDYTUFT and Marigold  
Live outdoors until it's cold;  
Sturdy maids with glowing faces  
Blooming in the bleakest places.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



JACK ROSE said, ambitiously,  
He would grow to be a tree;  
But his Dad said, "Better far  
Be contented as you are."

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**W**ATER-LILY is very fond  
Of floating in a sunny pond.  
Tantalizing little creature,  
Likes to grow where one can't reach her.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**Y**OUNG COCKS-COMB was so very vain,  
Hated to stay out in the rain;  
Said he would n't so much care,  
If he had other clothes to wear.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



ON THE BORDER of the wood  
All alone the Ghost-Flower stood,  
Like a moonbeam dressed in white,—  
Such a very pretty sight.

# FLOWER CHILDREN

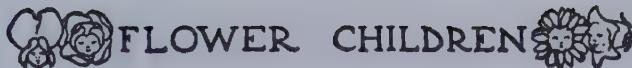


**G**OLDEN-ROD, the lucky chappy,  
Grew up strong and tall and happy.  
Slept out doors, if you 'll remember,  
All those cold nights in September.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



MADAME DAHLIA, like her name,  
Is a very stately dame;  
Her family is so polite,  
It is a joy to meet them, quite.



FLOWER CHILDREN



MISS California Poppy said  
She liked the sunshine on her head,  
Though her friends might think her foolish,  
Thought this country rather coolish.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



CORN FLOWER, Bachelor Button's sister —  
Gay young dog, he never missed her —  
Went to live with Mrs. Corn,  
So she would not be forlorn.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



CAT-TAIL, growing in the marsh,  
Thought his Mother very harsh,  
Because she wouldn't let him play  
With Blue Flag-lilies all the day.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



PRINCE'S FEATHER, straight and tall,  
Grew against the garden wall;  
Did n't care to play, said he  
Came of a royal family.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**C**RIMSON RAMBLER one day said,  
He did n't like the old homestead;  
Thought he 'd travel, so he went  
Over the wall on mischief bent.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**G**RANDDAD SAGE, the dear old man,  
Says it is a splendid plan  
For all young children to obey;  
Says they did so in his day.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



NOW LET the banners be unfurled,  
To greet the fairest of the world;  
Come Roses all, and pay your duty:  
Madame the Queen, American Beauty!

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**G**OLDEN-GLOW said "Well, I know,  
I 'm just going to start and grow."  
Liked it 'way up in the air—  
Sent back word he 'd stay up there.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**B**ACHELOR BUTTON, O, most shocking!  
Found a hole in his silk stocking;  
But he mended it so neatly,  
Covered up the place completely.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



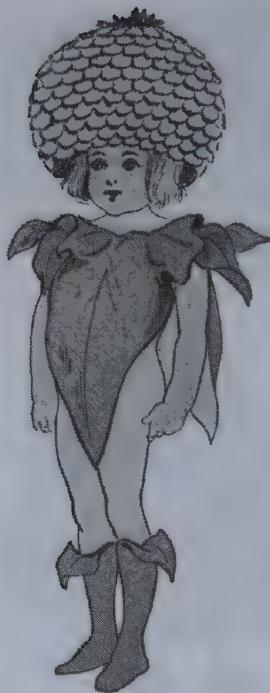
JOLLY SUNFLOWER, big and yellow,  
Said: "I 'm sure a lucky fellow.  
To be small must seem so queer—  
I get a splendid view from here."

# FLOWER CHILDREN



STATELY Lady Hollyhock,  
In a lovely colored frock,  
Taught her children every day  
Precisely what to do and say.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



ZINNIA stands so very straight  
Just inside the garden gate;  
Sometimes single, sometimes double,  
Never gives a bit of trouble.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**B**ITTER-SWEET concluded she  
Would live with some good, friendly tree;  
Went to visit Madame Oak,  
Stayed all winter, for a joke.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**S**AUCY LITTLE Black-eyed Susan,  
When her mother caught her snoozin',  
Rubbed her sleepy eyes and said  
She guessed she 'd toddle off to bed.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



NIGHTSHADE has a purple berry,  
But he is very naughty, *very*;  
Little children never should  
Play with one who isn't good.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**G**ENTIAN growing by the brook,  
Bending low to get a look  
At her pretty face so sweet,  
Stepped too near and wet her feet.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**S**CARLET POPPY in the wheat,  
Said she 'd like some grains to eat,  
But when Head Wheat gave her some  
She made believe 't was chewing-gum.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



MULLEIN grew up rough-and-tumble.  
He was Irish, very humble;  
Still he was a jolly fellow,  
With his funny head all yellow.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



SIR THISTLE is a Scotchman bluff,  
His manners are a trifle rough;  
You find him everywhere you go;  
He travels on the wind, you know.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



WILD CUCUMBER said he guessed,  
He 'd take a little trip out West,  
Thought he 'd stay a year or two,  
And maybe he 'd see something new.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



**B**URDOCK and his family,  
With the gardener don't agree;  
But Burdock says if he 's your friend,  
He 'll stick to you until the end.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



CHINA ASTER thought he 'd do  
The proper thing, and wear a queue;  
But all his brothers laughed and said  
He 'd better cut his hair instead.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



CHRYSANTHEMUM is Japanese,  
She 's a fine lady, if you please;  
She comes to see us once a year,  
About the time Thanksgiving 's here.

## FLOWER CHILDREN



POISON IVY did n't know  
Why every one disliked her so;  
Made her feel so very sad  
When people said she was so bad.

# FLOWER CHILDREN



**I**N A SWEET velvet dress of red,  
On Christmas Eve, Poinsettia said:  
“I ’ll hang my stocking up because  
This is the night for Santa Claus.”

# FLOWER CHILDREN



EVER SEE a plant so jolly,  
And good fellow-ish as Holly?  
Makes no difference what's the weather,  
He and Christmas come together.









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